

Docket No. A2011-87

Postal Regulatory Commission

Washington, D.C. 20268-0001

NOTICE OF FILING UNDER 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)

TO THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE:

Please take notice that on September 23, 2011, the Commission received a petition for review of the Postal Service's determination to close the Pomfret Center post office located in Pomfret Center, Connecticut 06259. The petition for review was filed by Tima Smith (Petitioner) and is postmarked September 9, 2011.

This notice is advisory only and is being furnished so that the Postal Service may begin assembling the administrative record in advance of any formal appeal proceedings held upon the alleged (closing/consolidation) for transmittal pursuant to 39 CFR § 3001.113(a) (requiring the filing of the record within 15 days of the filing with the Commission of a petition for review). The Postal Service's administrative record is due no later than October 11, 2011.



Shoshana M. Grove
Secretary

Date: September 27, 2011

Attachment

Tima Smith
P.O. Box 93
Pomfret Center, CT 06259

RECEIVED

2011 SEP 23 P 12: 38

Received

September 8, 2011

SEP 19 2011

 POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Postal Regulatory Commission Office of PAGR
901 New York Avenue, NW
Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20268-0001

Subject: Letter to appeal closing of 06259 post office branch

Hello:

I appreciate the USPS's premise that Pomfret, CT requires only one post office, or, at least, one *adequate* post office. HOWEVER – I cannot understand the total absence of discrimination in your decision to close our 06259 branch and leave the 06258 branch open. And I certainly can't understand your sticking to that decision despite so much presented evidence that it's completely without merit.

To put it succinctly: The Post Office is closing the newer, larger, more adequate, and more centrally located post office branch with safer entrance and exit, and leaving open the older, smaller, less adequate branch at one edge of the town with a decidedly dangerous entrance and exit. Why?

In addition to the problems listed above—none of which have been satisfactorily addressed by Beau LeBouef, your manager of Post Office Operations in Hartford— parking for Pomfret patrons at 06258 will simply be a nightmare. Mr. LeBouef has addressed that particular complaint, saying new parking spaces will be added. I would like to know where? Has Mr. LeBouef ever actually seen either post office? I'm quite sure he has not, because there is no room for more parking spaces at the 06258 location. There's little room for anything at that location. Contrary to what Mr. LeBouef stated at an informational meeting in April, the Post Office does not own the 06258 location. Therefore, I assume a parking garage cannot be built there, and private property on either side prevents any new parking spaces from being added on ground level.

In a nutshell:

- The 06258 branch will NOT accommodate both branches' post office boxes and has no room to add more than it already offers. Where are we box holders to go?
- The 06258 branch does NOT provide safe vehicle entry and exit for the customers who use it now and will provide an even more dangerous situation when the entire town is forced to use it.
- The 06258 branch fails to meet current, let alone future, mail handling and parking needs. It's too small!
- Lastly, my business will be negatively impacted by closing 06259 and I'm very unhappy about that.

The one reason I cannot refute for closing 06259 is, as pointed out by Mr. LeBouef, it does not have a permanent postmaster. Since the town was never asked to appoint one, apparently it was your decision not to do so. And for that, the entire town of Pomfret is expected to have completely inadequate mail service into the future?

The town has requested that the closing be postponed until the town can find one adequate location to serve as a new post office. That request has been ignored and the closing goes forward.

Personally, I would like an explanation that, rather than feeling arbitrary and illogical, makes some kind of sense.

I hope to hear from you.

Sincerely,



cc:

Sen. Blumenthal, 30 Lewis Street, Suite 101, Hartford, CT 06103
Sen. Lieberman, 1 Constitution Plaza, 7th Floor, Hartford, CT 06103
Cong. Courtney, 101 Water Street, Suite 301, Norwich, CT 06360